



# *LINCOLN CHAFEE*

## *U.S. SENATOR*

### ***RHODE ISLAND***

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **STATEMENT OF SENATOR LINCOLN CHAFEE:**

### **BASE CLOSURE AND REALIGNMENT**

### **COMMISSION REGIONAL HEARING**

#### **Boston Convention Center**

#### **July 6, 2005**

“Distinguished Commissioners, Welcome to New England.

The Department of Defense recognized the value and importance of Rhode Island’s military installations when it made its BRAC recommendations. I appreciate this - particularly in a round where many states face difficult closure recommendations.

The fact that DOD assigned Rhode Island a net-gain does not mean that it did not recommend significant changes.

Over time, Newport Naval Station has evolved from the Headquarters of the Atlantic Fleet to a premier center of undersea warfare research and development, as well as home to many of the Navy’s prized educational schools. DOD recommendations continue this trend, recognizing the value of the Naval Undersea Warfare Center and the Navy War College by adding Subsurface Maritime Sensors, Electronic Warfare, and Electronics Research, Development and Acquisition, the Officer Training Command, the Navy Supply Corps School and Center for Service Support to Naval Station Newport.

However, DOD also recommends that Newport lose the Navy Warfare Development Command, Naval Reserve Readiness Command, submarine communications sensors, and the religious training and education center. I respectfully ask members of the commission to carefully review these recommendations especially in light of Newport’s emergence as a center of educational and research excellence. Rhode Island has adequate capacity to accommodate the recommended gains while retaining current installations. Additional land has been identified for base expansion and legislation has been enacted to

support capital investments of mission related capabilities. Rhode Island has also reduced costs to Naval Station Newport by roughly \$1.6 million annually by restructuring electricity and solid waste fees, and local merchants have implemented “Rhode Island salutes” which offers discounts to service members and their families.

I know you all have and will hear the word synergy many times in the course of your reviews. I think it is helpful to define this word that we use so often: The dictionary defines it as “a mutually advantageous compatibility of distinct participants.” This is a good thing.

In the immediate region we have the great Naval installations of Newport and New London. We have a very strong industrial base - from small companies to large corporations such as Electric Boat and Raytheon. We have fully supportive local and state governments and federal delegations. And we have internationally respected research institutions - including University of Rhode Island’s School of Oceanography and Woods Hole Research Center. These participants truly exemplify synergy, making for a mutually advantageous conjunction that results in unparalleled undersea research and capability.

I hope you all take these important elements into account as you review the military value of Rhode Island and Connecticut.

Thank you.”